

Swimming Pool Considerations

Swimming pools and spas are, from a regulatory standpoint, divided into two categories:

Public Swimming Pools: which include municipal swimming pools, and pools and spas associated with hotels, motels, and recreation facilities. These are subject to State and local regulations and require annual permits for operation.

Private Swimming Pools: which include residential pools, and pools and spas not intended for public use. While not regulated with annual permits for operation, private pools are subject to some regulatory consideration.

The following considerations apply to all private swimming pools:

- Building permits are required for all in-ground swimming pools.
- Above ground swimming pools do not generally require a building permit.
- Fences or an approved enclosure are required for private swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, containing water more than 24 inches in depth.
- Fences or barriers shall be at least 48 inches in height above the finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier away from the pool.
- Gates and doors in such barriers shall be self-closing and self-latching. Where the self-latching device is less than 54 inches above the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate.
- Self closing and self latching gates shall be maintained such that the gate will positively close and latch when released from an open position of 6 inches from the gatepost.
- No existing pool enclosure shall be removed, replaced or changed in a manner that reduces its effectiveness as a safety barrier.
- There shall be no overhead electrical wires within 10 feet of the edge of the pool.
- There shall be no electrical device within 5 feet of the edge of the pool.
- Any electrical receptacle within 20 feet of the pool, and all pool equipment, shall be GFIC protected.

Questions: contact the Norfolk Fire Division Prevention Bureau (Permits and Codes) at 701 Koenigstein Avenue, or phone (402) 844-2060.